

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/506,375

Examiner

Mujtaba K. Chaudry

Applicant(s)

HEKSTRA ET AL.

Art Unit

2133

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 8/28/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-11.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 10/19/2006.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

ALBERT DECADY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An Examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Edward Goodman on Thursday, October 19, 2006.

Please amend the application as follows:

Please replace claim 12 with:

12. A computer readable medium containing a computer program comprising computer program code means for causing a computer to perform the steps of the method as claimed in claim 1 when said computer program is run on said computer.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Claims 1-11 are allowed. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Independent claim 1 of the present application teaches a method of decoding possibly mutilated code words (r) of a code (C), wherein an information word (m) and an address word (a) are encoded into a code word (c) of said code (C) using a generator matrix (G) and wherein said address words (a) are selected such that address words (a) having a predetermined relationship are assigned to consecutive code words (c), said method comprising the steps of: decoding differences (D) of at least two ($L-1$) pairs of possibly mutilated code words (r_i, r_{i+1}) to obtain estimates (u, v) for the differences of the corresponding pairs of code words (c_i, c_{i+1}); combining said estimates (u, v) to obtain a number (L) of at least two corrupted versions (w_j) of a particular code word (c); forming a code vector (z) to obtain a decode code word (c') in said code (C); and using said generator matrix (G) to obtain the information word (m) and the address word (a) embedded in said decoded code word (c'). The foregoing limitations are not found in the prior arts of record. Particularly, none of the prior arts of record teach nor fairly suggest, "...an information word (m) and an address word (a) are encoded into a code word (c) of said code (C) using a generator matrix (G) and wherein said address words (a) are selected such that address words (a) having a predetermined relationship are assigned to consecutive code words (c)...decoding differences (D) of at least two ($L-1$) pairs of possibly mutilated code words (r_i, r_{i+1}) to obtain estimates (u, v) for the differences of the corresponding pairs of code words (c_i, c_{i+1}); combining said estimates (u, v) to obtain a number (L) of at least two corrupted versions (w_j) of a particular code word (c); forming a code vector (z) to obtain a decode code word (c') in

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said code (C); and using said generator matrix (G) to obtain the information word (m) and the address word (a) embedded in said decoded code word (c').”

Independent claims 9 and 11 include similar limitations of independent claim 1 and therefore are allowed for similar reasons.

Dependent claims 2-8 and 10 depend from allowable independent claim 1 and inherently include limitations therein and therefore are allowed as well.

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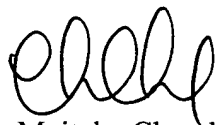
Conclusion

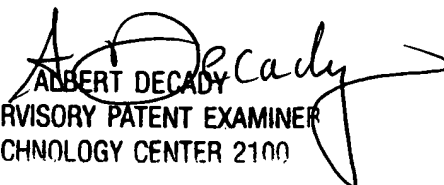
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mujtaba K. Chaudry whose telephone number is 571-272-3817.

The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur 9-7:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Albert DeCady can be reached on 571-272-3819. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Mujtaba Chaudry
Art Unit 2133
October 19, 2006


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